

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

ITEM

5

DECISION

TOPIC Agreement with the Hungry Canyons Alliance

Approval is requested for the Department of Natural Resources to enter into an Agreement with the Hungry Canyons Alliance (Alliance) so it can receive \$26,000 in Fish Habitat funds (Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund). This funding shall be used as cost share dollars for a \$130,000 Congressional appropriation and is listed in the Fisheries Bureau fiscal 2007 budget.

Channel erosion in western Iowa streams is a major threat to public and private infrastructure and it is estimated to have caused more than \$1.1 billion in damages. In 1992, Hungry Canyons Alliance, a non-profit corporation, representing 22 counties was formed to research and implement solutions to control stream channel erosion in the deep loess soils region of western Iowa. Weir structures were found to be the most effective in stopping channel erosion. However weirs designed and constructed before 1995 prevented upstream fish passage.

In 1995, the DNR partnered with the Alliance and designed a weir that effectively stops channel erosion and allows fish passage. The DNR continues to strengthen its partnership with the Alliance with a funding commitment to match a Congressional appropriation to modify existing weir structures that prevent fish movement. In this partnership Fisheries Bureau staff works closely with the Alliance to select projects that have the most benefit to stream fisheries. The Fisheries Bureau and the Alliance has selected a weir on West Fork Little Sioux River, Woodbury County to receive Fish Habitat funding.

We recommend that the Department enter into a contract agreement with the Hungry Canyons Alliance to modify the West Fork Little Sioux River weir.

Ken Herring,
Conservation and Recreation Division
Administrator

January 2, 2007